

Mississippi Forestry Commission  
Safety Council Meeting Minutes  
April 27,2006

Attendees: Robbie Gill (Chair Person), Bob Ponder (Secretary), Bryan Davis, Doug Vandevander, Ed Brown, Howard Stogner, George Byrd, Ken Cline, Greg Chatham, Bill Kitchings, Tye Lewis, Michael Sherman.

Welcome: Robbie Gill

Reading of old minutes: Everyone silently

Accepting of Minutes: Ed Brown made motion.  
Robbie Gill seconded.

Announcements:

Bob Ponder announced to the group that John Walker would be starting his review of the tower sites and offices. John will be starting in the SED sometime between May 15 and May 31. This is not an official inspection it is a review to make sure everyone is ready to start complying with the regulations of the Commission.

Ed Brown wanted to stop the rumor going around that it is OK to wear 100% cotton clothing in fire situations instead of nomex. 100% Cotton clothing is only acceptable when nomex is not available and no other choice but to wear the cotton clothing. Nomex is the preferred attire and should always be worn in fire situations. Refer to MFC Safety manual personal protective equipment on page C-1. Standards PPE for burning operation (either prescribed burning or wildfire).

Topics for discussion:

Nomex, lights and boots. All of these items were not discussed due to the fact; no action has been taken since last meeting. Will wait and see where we are in July.

Hard Hat Program;

Do we still use this?

Group discussion it is still in use but not to the extent it has been in the past. Why don't we change the colors of the hard hats to so a 5-year increment instead of skipping from 10 to 20. We decided to implement these changes to the program.

Over 5 but not over 10 years is lime green

Over 10 but not over 15 years is Blue.

Over 15 but not over 20 years is Dark Green

Over 20 but not over 25 years is Red

Over 25 but less than 30 is white

Over 30 are black.

This was voted on by the council and approved for suggesting to State Forester.

Accidents:

Ed gave an update on Ricky Harness in Philadelphia. Stated he is back at work and is on light duty.

Doug gave us a brief description of the accident in the Northeast District involving an employee that was hit in the head.

General Discussion:

We need to get better support from all areas of the Mississippi Forestry Commission for the Safety Council to have a better recognition in the Commission.

Everyone should try to bring a guest at the next meeting to try and get more personnel involved and get more interest in what we do.

Want to put some where on the bed of the trucks a sign that reads "Stay Clear 25 feet".

This will help stop accidents like the one at the Philadelphia area.

It would be a better idea to go back to the chains on the ramps instead of the bars.

Chains should be left loose and not tight. If chains are tight they will break, it is set up to catch the ramp if it falls not to hold it in place. This is the councils suggestion.

We need to look into some way to change the headache racks on the transports.

We need to give a short course in radio ethics and also we need to find out the status of new radios for use in the field.

Inspections will go back to being a regular routine of the Commission; lately we have gotten away from them.

Everyone should go back and during the time before the next Safety Council meeting should mark items in the safety handbook that is out of date and things we need to look into changing.

Next meeting will be in July. We will welcome our new State Forester, Charlie Morgan to our agency and the Safety Council. We look forward to the opportunity to share new ideas.

Secretary of the council will be elected next meeting. That is the only office coming vacant.

Meeting adjourned.